

I claim:

1. A spittoon system for receiving ink spit from first and second inkjet printheads dispensing different ink formulations in an inkjet printing mechanism, the 5 spittoon system comprising a reservoir having a catch basin sized to accumulate a pool of ink spit from the first printhead, with the catch basin configured to splatter and dissipate ink spit from the second printhead upon impacting the accumulated pool of ink.
- 10 2. A spittoon system according to claim 1 wherein the catch basin has walls defining a funnel shape.
- 15 3. A spittoon system according to claim 1 wherein the catch basin has walls defining a rectangular cross section.
4. A spittoon system according to claim 1 wherein the catch basin has walls defining a flat bottom surface, and side walls tapering toward the flat bottom surface.
- 20 5. A method of purging ink from first and second inkjet printheads dispensing different ink formulations in an inkjet printing mechanism, comprising the steps of:
accumulating a pool of a first formulation of ink from the first printhead; and
spitting a second formulation of ink from the second printhead into the accumulated pool of ink.
- 25 6. A method according to claim 5 wherein the accumulating step comprises the step of spitting ink of the first formulation from the first printhead into a catch basin.
- 30 7. A method according to claim 5 wherein the spitting step comprises the step of dissipating ink of the second formulation upon impact with the accumulated pool of ink.

8. A method according to claim 5 wherein the spitting step comprises the step of preventing formation of an ink stalagmite of ink of the second formulation impeding formation of a base portion of said stalagmite.

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9. A method according to claim 5 wherein the accumulating step comprises the step of accumulating ink of the first formulation comprising a dye-based ink formulation, and the step of spitting ink of the second formulation comprises spitting a pigment-based ink formulation.

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10. A method of avoiding formation of an ink stalagmite from purging a pigment-based ink dispensed from a first printhead of an inkjet printing mechanism also having a second printhead dispensing a dye-based ink formulation, comprising the steps of:

15 accumulating a pool of the dye-based ink formulation spit from the second printhead; and

 spitting the pigment-based ink from the first printhead into the accumulated pool of dye-based ink.

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11. A method according to claim 10 wherein the inkjet printing mechanism has plural printheads dispensing dye-based ink formulations, and the accumulating step comprises accumulating a pool of the dye-based ink formulations spit from the plural printheads.

12. An inkjet printing mechanism, comprising:
a first inkjet printhead dispensing a first formulation of ink;
a second inkjet printhead dispensing a second formulation of ink different
from said first formulation of ink;
5 a carriage that reciprocates the first and second printheads through a
printzone for printing and to a servicing region for printhead servicing; and
a spittoon comprising a reservoir having a catch basin sized to accumulate a
pool of ink spit from the first printhead, with the catch basin configured to splatter
and dissipate ink spit from the second printhead upon impacting the accumulated
10 pool of ink.

13. An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 12 wherein the catch
basin has walls defining a funnel shape.

15 14. An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 12 wherein the catch
basin has walls defining a rectangular cross section.

15. An inkjet printing mechanism according to claim 12 wherein the catch
basin has walls defining a flat bottom surface, and side walls tapering toward the flat
20 bottom surface.